

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-22. (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented): A method of pro-pigmenting human superficial body growths in need of pro-pigmenting, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to the human superficial body growths, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol, 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione and said biological precursor thereof is selected from the group consisting of pregnenolone, 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone, DHEA sulfate, and 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone sulfate.

24. (Original): The method of Claim 23, wherein the DHEA or at least one of biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof is applied in the form of a composition.

25-26 (Canceled).

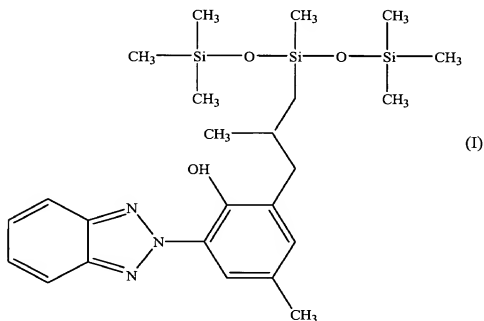
27. (Original): The method of Claim 23, wherein the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof is applied in the form of a composition comprising from 10<sup>-6</sup>% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one of biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

28. (Original): The method of Claim 27, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

29. (Original): The method of Claim 27, wherein the composition comprises about 1% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

30. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein the composition further comprises at least one UV screening agent and/or one depigmenting agent and/or one keratolytic agent.

31. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises the UV screening agent selected from the group consisting of dibenzoylmethane derivatives, benzylidenecamphor-based UVA-active screening agents, benzylidenecamphor-based UVB-active screening agents, benzimidazole-type or benzoxazole-type UVA-active screening agents, benzophenone derivatives, silane derivatives, polyorganosiloxanes containing a benzophenone group, benzotriazoles, benzotriazole silicones, triazine derivatives, cinnamic acid derivatives, alkyl 2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylates, octocrylene, the compound of formula I below,



and mixtures thereof.

32. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises said depigmenting agent selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, ellagic acid, arbutin and derivatives thereof, hydroquinone, aminophenol derivatives,

iminophenol derivatives, L-2-oxothiazolidone-4-carboxylic acid and salts or esters thereof, procysteine and salts or esters thereof, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, and plant extracts.

33. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises said keratolytic agent selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids,  $\beta$ -hydroxy acids,  $\alpha$ -keto acids,  $\beta$ -keto acids, retinoids, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, and sugar derivatives.

34-54. (Canceled).

55. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying DHEA to the human superficial body growths.

56. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol to the human superficial body growths.

57. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol sulfate to the human superficial body growths.

58. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying 4-androstene-3,17-dione to the human superficial body growths.

59. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying pregnenolone to the human superficial body growths.

60. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone to the human superficial body growths.

61. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying DHEA sulfate to the human superficial body growths.

62. (New): The method of claim 23, comprising applying 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone sulfate to the human superficial body growths.

63. (New): The method of Claim 55, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA.

64. (New): The method of Claim 56, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol.

65. (New): The method of Claim 57, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the 5-androstene-3 $\beta$ ,17 $\beta$ -diol sulfate.

66. (New): The method of Claim 58, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the 4-androstene-3,17-dione.

67. (New): The method of Claim 59, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the pregnenolone.

68. (New): The method of Claim 60, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone.

69. (New): The method of Claim 61, The method of Claim 27, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA sulfate.

70. (New): The method of Claim 62, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the 17 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregnenolone sulfate.